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14 November 1991

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Forty-sixth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 60 (b) and 107

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Transparency in armaments

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms, to include international arms transfers, in accordance with procedures and input requirements initially comprising those set out in the annex to the resolution, as well as other interrelated information, particularly as referred to in paragraph 10 of the resolution.

2. By operative paragraph 8, the General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to elaborate, with the assistance of a panel of governmental technical experts to be nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the technical procedures necessary for the effective operation of the Register and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

3. By operative paragraph 11 (b), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, inter alia, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts convened in 1994, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

4. The above request is related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ and section 5, Disarmament, subprogramme 3, Monitoring, analysis and studies, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would establish a panel of governmental technical experts. In order to achieve appropriate geographical balance, the panel would be composed of 18 experts. The panel would hold two sessions in New York in 1992: a one-week session in March-April and a two-week session in July.

6. The Department for Disarmament Affairs would provide appropriate substantive support services to the panel. In addition, it is estimated that five work-months of consultancy services and two work-months of temporary assistance of secretarial support services would be required to assist the panel in its work. The consultant would have extensive knowledge and expertise on defence-related technologies, arms transfer problems and transparency. The consultant would prepare the successive drafts of the panel's report, as well as attend both sessions of the panel.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1992-1993

7. The activities called for by operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 11 (b) of the draft resolution would go beyond the scope of activities programmed under subprogramme 3, activity 3 (ii) "Follow-up of recommendations for further work with respect to the study reports of ad hoc expert groups mandated by the General Assembly, including coordination with other organs/agencies of the United Nations system" of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1991-1993. Therefore it would be necessary to add the following citations under subprogramme 3 of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993:

Under activity 3, Coordination, harmonization and liaison:

"(iv) Establishing and maintaining a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms";

Under activity 1, Parliamentary services:

"(v) Panel of governmental technical experts on international arms transfers (two sessions in 1992)".

The programmatic aspects of the activities called for by operative paragraph 11 (b) of the draft resolution would be considered within the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

8. The requirements to undertake the activities in 1992 described in paragraphs 5 and 6 above are estimated as follows:

		$
(a)	Conference-servicing costs (see annex below for breakdown)	
(i)	One-week session in New York (March-April)	72 400
(ii)	Two-week session in New York (July)	155 100
	Total (a)	227 500
(b)	Non-conference-servicing costs	
(i)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 18 governmental technical experts at two sessions	164 100
(ii)	Five work-months of consultancy services, travel and daily subsistence allowance for two sessions	34 000
(iii)	Two work-months of temporary assistance	7 200
	Total (b)	205 300
	Total (a) and (b)	432 800

9. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, it is anticipated that the Register of Conventional Arms to be established at United Nations Headquarters in New York would become fully operational in 1993. Taking into account the volume of documentation anticipated to be received initially, it is estimated that the cost of related activities during that year could be absorbed by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

10. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 (b) of the draft resolution, since the group of governmental experts would be convened in 1994, related programme budget implications would be considered in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

F. Potential for absorption

11. As regards the estimated conference-servicing costs in New York of the two sessions called for in the draft resolution and outlined in paragraph 5 above, these estimates, totalling $227,500, are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 32 of the proposed programme budget and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the final calendar of conferences for 1992-1993 and was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings which are programmed but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1992-1993 were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 should draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1 be adopted.

12. No provision has been made under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to undertake the activities enumerated in paragraph 6 above. It is not anticipated that the cost of $205,300 referred to in paragraph 8 (b) above could be absorbed from within the appropriation under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

G. Indication of additional requirements

13. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, it is estimated that additional requirements of $205,300 would arise under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

H. Contingency fund

14. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from the low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

15. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the continency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Summary

16. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, it is estimated that additional appropriations of $205,300 would be required under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF TWO SESSIONS IN 1992 OF THE PANEL OF GOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS

	First session (New York, one week)	Second session (New York, two weeks)
	$	$
Meeting servicing		
Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S	50 200	99 500
Post-session documentation		
(70 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	22 200	55 600
Total	72 400	155 100

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Agenda item 66

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986, 42/46 A and B of 30 November 1987, 43/83 A and B of 7 December 1988, 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989 and 45/78 A and B of 12 December 1990,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/ the second meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja from 25 to 29 June 1990, 2/ the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990, 3/ and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held at Harare from 16 to 22 October 1991,

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1/ A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

2/ See A/45/474, annex.

3/ See A/45/421-S/21797, annex IV, res. 17/19-E.

Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A, 44/124 B and 45/78 A,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community in terms, inter alia, of international peace and security, environment, its effects on global climate conditions, economy and scientific research,

Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

Welcoming the increasing recognition of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems and of the need for a comprehensive agreement to be negotiated by the international community on the protection and conservation of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

Sharing the concern over the environmental degradation of Antarctica and its impact on global environment expressed at the first, second and third substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Welcoming the increasing support including by some Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties for the establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park and to ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind,

Welcoming also the signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection by the Antarctic Treaty Parties on 3 October 1991 in Madrid, which among other things banned prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica for the next fifty years,

Welcoming the ongoing trend in acknowledging the need for internationally coordinated scientific research stations in Antarctica in order to minimize unnecessary duplication and logistical support facilities,

Welcoming further the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Convinced of the need to prevent or minimize any negative impact of human activity resulting from the large number of scientific stations and expeditions, including tourism in Antarctica, on the environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica 4/ and decides to keep the matter under review;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of the environment in Antarctica 5/ and requests the Secretary-General to monitor and gather information within existing resources on the state of the environment in Antarctica and submit an annual report to the General Assembly;

3. Expresses its regret that, despite the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or his representative has not been invited to the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, and urges once again the Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to their future meetings;

4. Reiterates its call on the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

5. Expresses its disappointment that while welcoming the recent signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection by the Antarctic Treaty Parties, the Protocol was not negotiated with the full participation of the international community;

6. Expresses its concern that the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection lacks the monitoring and implementation mechanisms to comply with the provisions of the Protocol and has not taken into consideration the call of the international community to ban permanently prospecting and mining in Antarctica;

4/ A/46/583.

5/ A/46/590.

7. Underlines its call that any move at drawing up an international convention to establish a nature reserve or world park in Antarctica and its dependent and associated ecosystems must be negotiated with the full participation of the international community;

8. Reaffirms the need to promote public awareness of the importance of Antarctica to the ecosystem and in this regard requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to explore the possibility of providing the relevant materials on Antarctica through the Department of Public Information;

9. Calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to increase the level of cooperation and collaboration with a view to reducing the number of scientific stations in Antarctica;

10. Urges all members of the international community to ensure that all activities in Antarctica are carried out exclusively for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities will ensure the maintenance of international peace and security and the protection of the Antarctic environment and are for the benefit of all mankind;

11. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to cooperate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

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Agenda item 66

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA

Gabon: draft resolution*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/83 B of 7 December 1988, 44/124 B of 15 December 1989 and 45/78 B of 12 December 1990,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Noting with regret that the apartheid minority regime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fiftieth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 22 July 1989, 1/

Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 2/

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* Submitted on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

1/ See A/44/603, annex I.

2/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

Recalling also declaration AHG/Decl.4 (XXVII) on South Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991, 3/

Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty 4/ is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the system of apartheid existing in South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 5/

2. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid minority regime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

3. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the apartheid minority regime from participation in the meetings of the Consultative Parties at the earliest possible date until such time that the abhorrent system and practices of apartheid minority domination are totally eliminated in South Africa;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account the concern expressed in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

3/ A/46/390, annex II.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

5/ A/46/512.